

# LOW ORDER DETONATION DEBRIS

Philip Thorne  
Applied Research Associates, Inc  
South Royalton VT 03768  
802-763-8348  
pthorne@ara.com

## **Extent of Problem**

**Examples from Ranges**

**Experimental LODs**

**Fate of energetics**

**LOD *plus* BIP of UXO**

## **Alternatives to Blow-in-Place**

## **Range Characterization Tools**

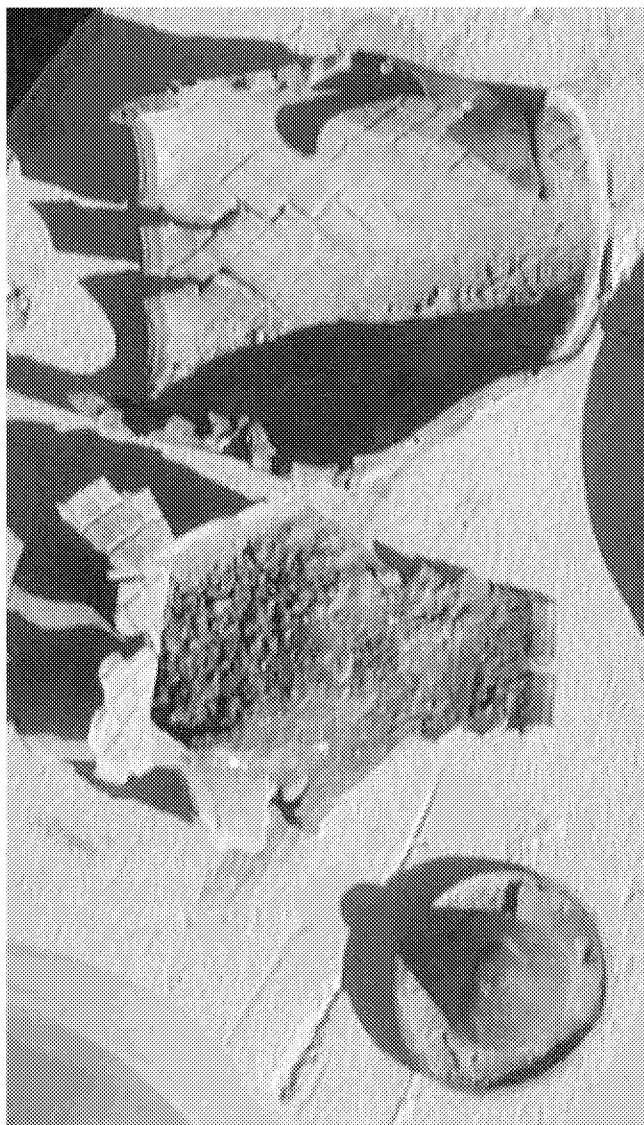
## **On-Range Remediation**



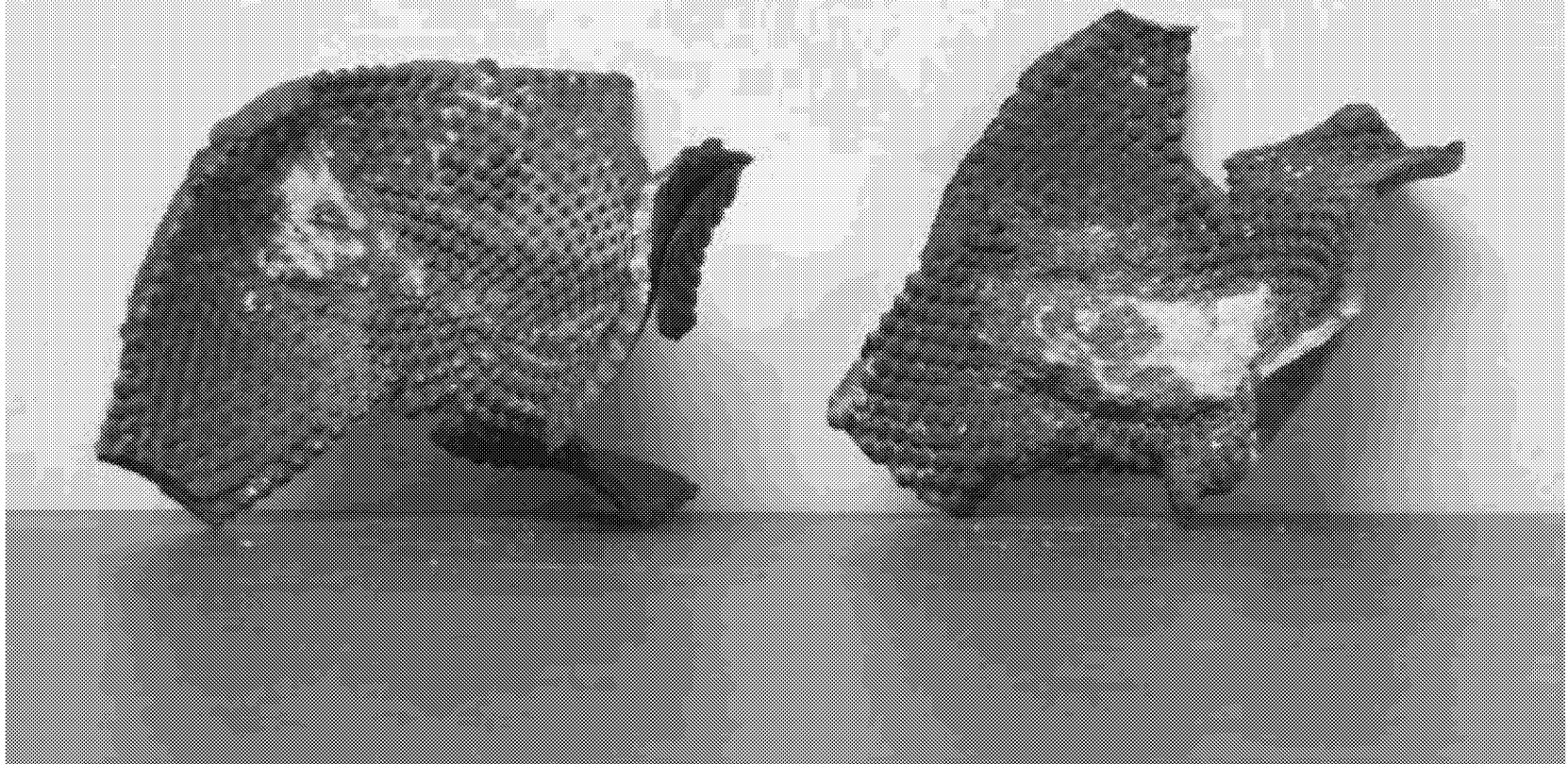
155mm artillery-TNT



BLU97-submunition  
Cyclotol 70%RDX / 30%TNT



**Weathered Grenade Fragments-TNT in CompB degrades,** producing the dark reddish coating. Sections of this have abraded, revealing fresh, white CompB.





Range Rocks?

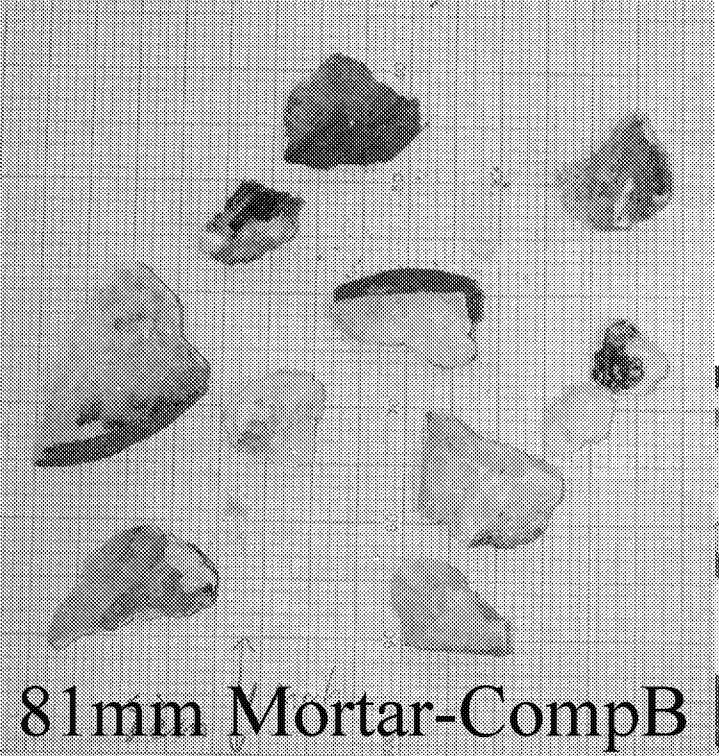
Tritonal 80% TNT/ 20% Aluminum

**LOD estimates may not be accurate.**

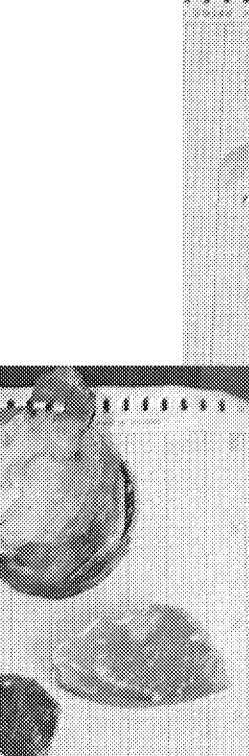
**e.g. BLU-97 submunitions listed at 2-3%  
EOD personnel plan on 20%**

**A LOD over 50% can not be distinguished  
from a high order by range spotters.**

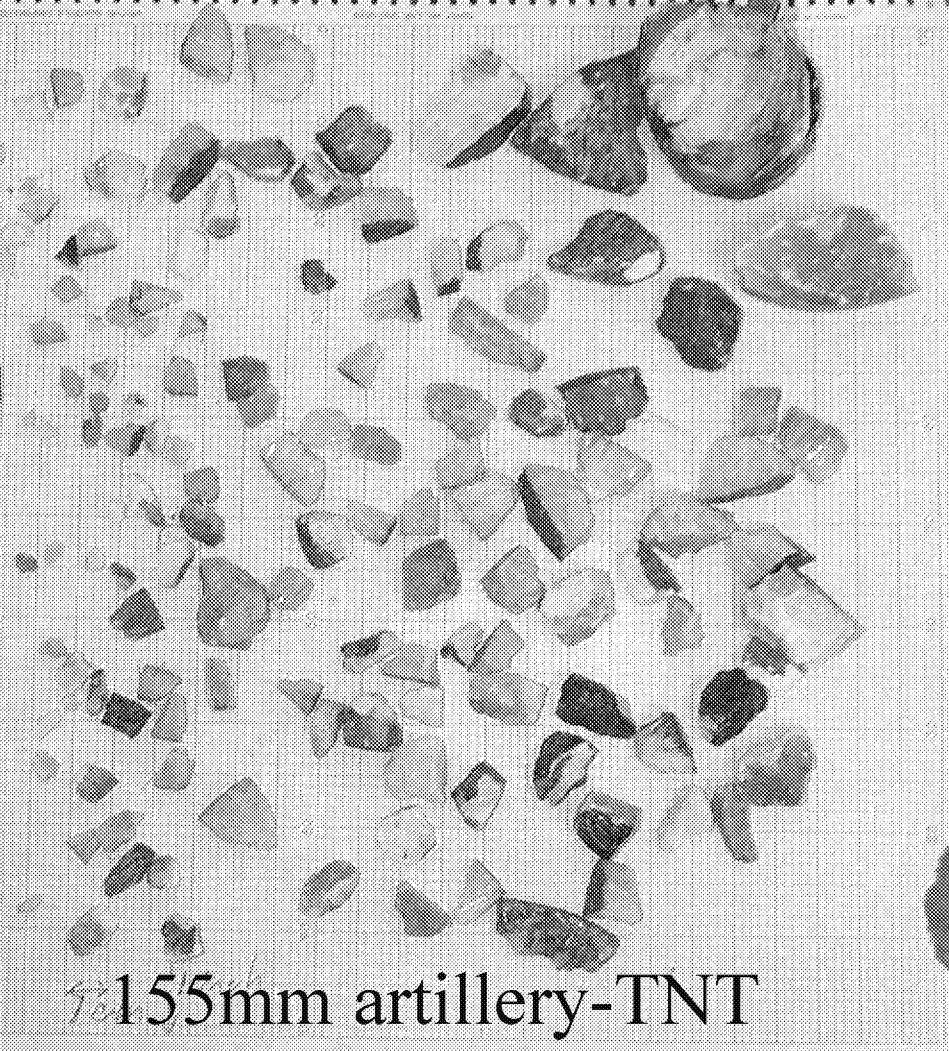




81mm Mortar-CompB



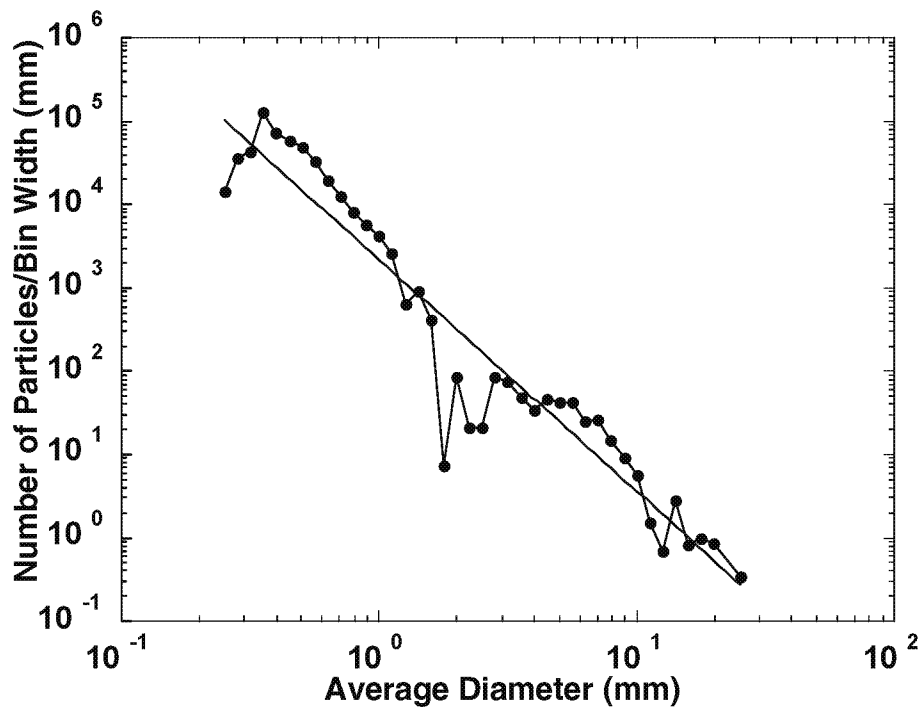
155mm artillery-TNT



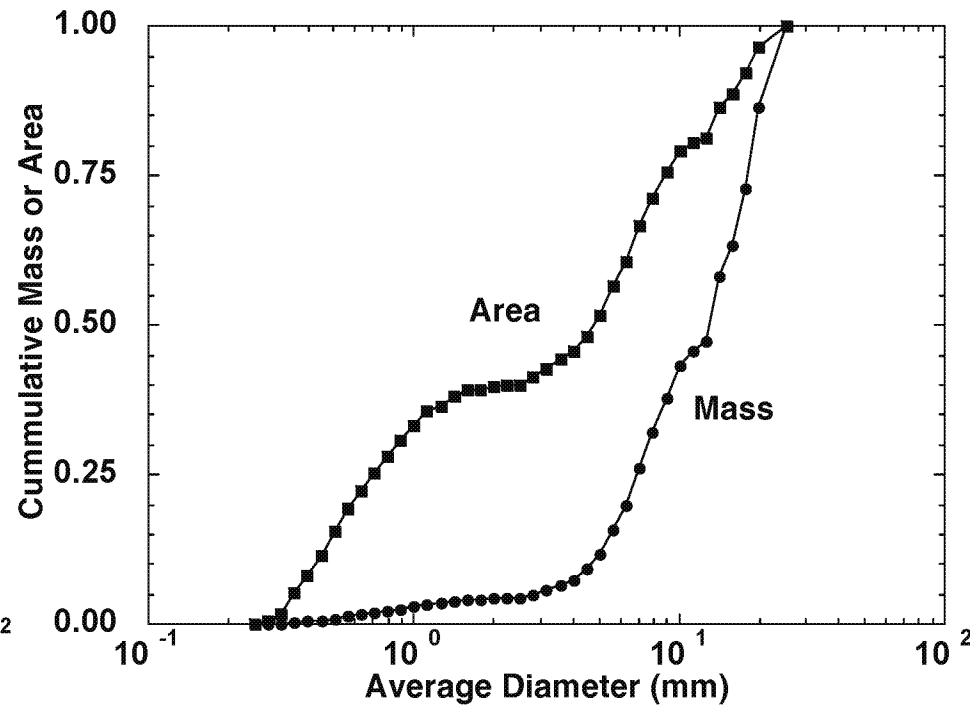
155mm artillery-TNT

Experimental LOD  
Blossom Point, MD-  
Drs. Taylor, Lever, Pennington



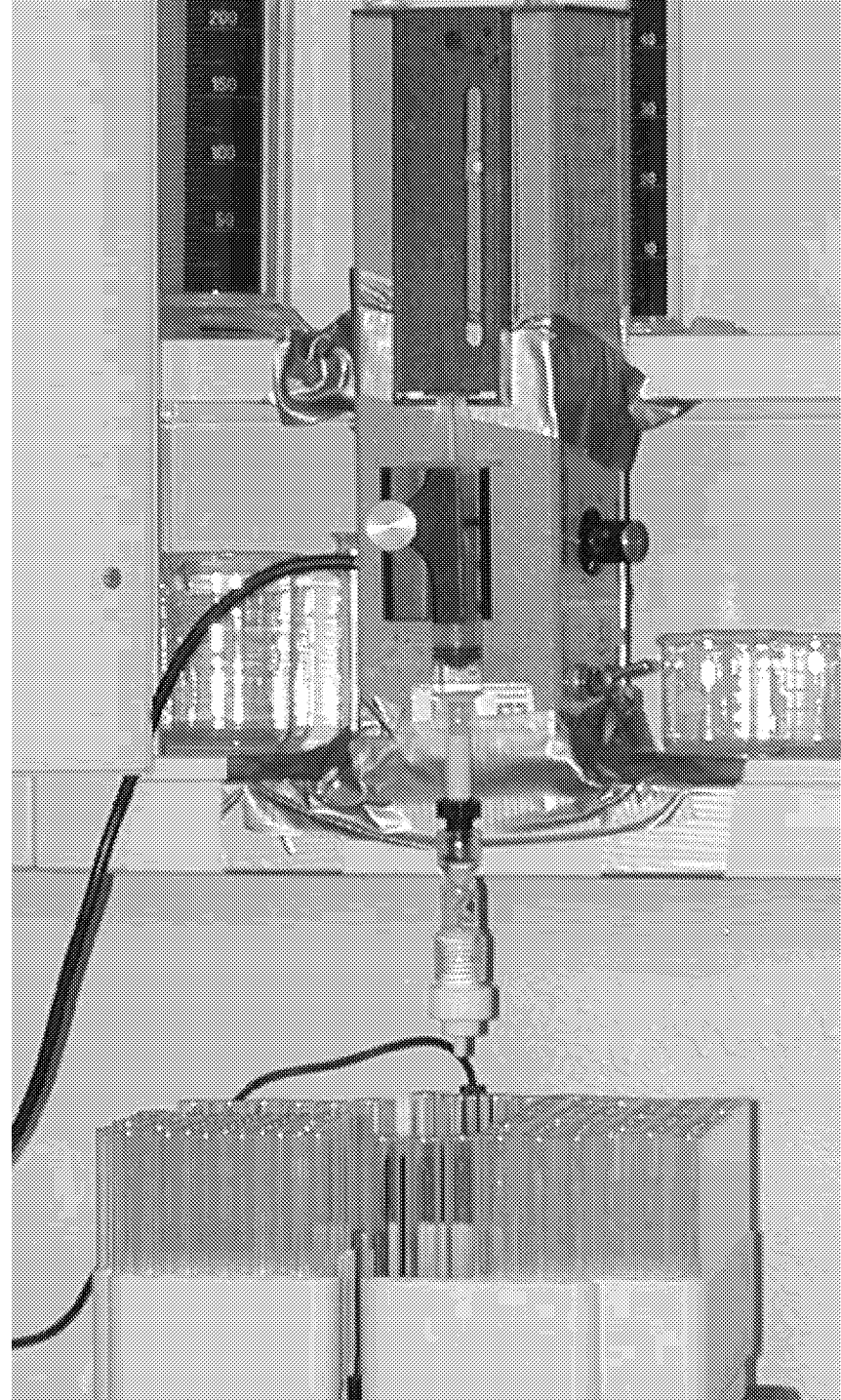
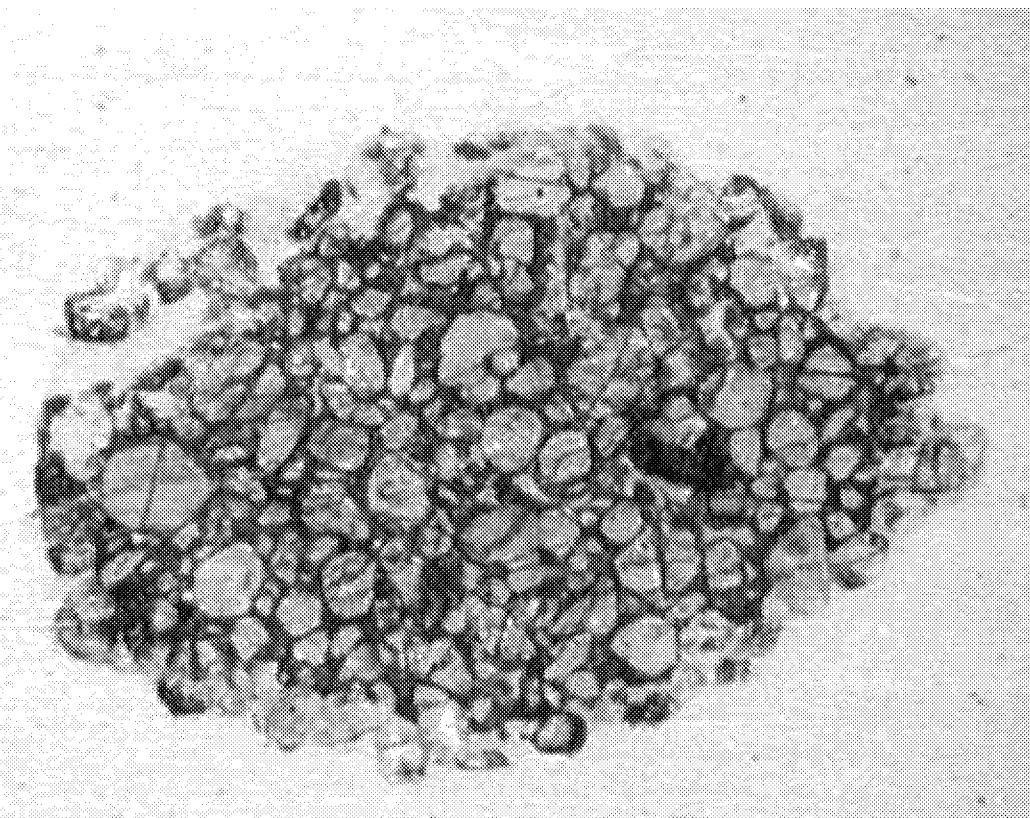


**FIGURE 3. Size distribution of CompB from LO-1.**



**FIGURE 4. Cumulative surface area and mass of CompB from LO-1. The total mass was 0.202 kg, and the total surface area was 0.11 m<sup>2</sup>. The data for particles <0.25 mm are not included.**

# CompB weathering studies- Dr. Susan Taylor-CRREL



# Sieved range soils-TNT particles revealed with color reagent



150-300um

This image shows a dense cluster of dark, irregularly shaped particles, which are TNT particles revealed by a color reagent. The particles are concentrated in the upper half of the frame, corresponding to the 150-300um sieved range.

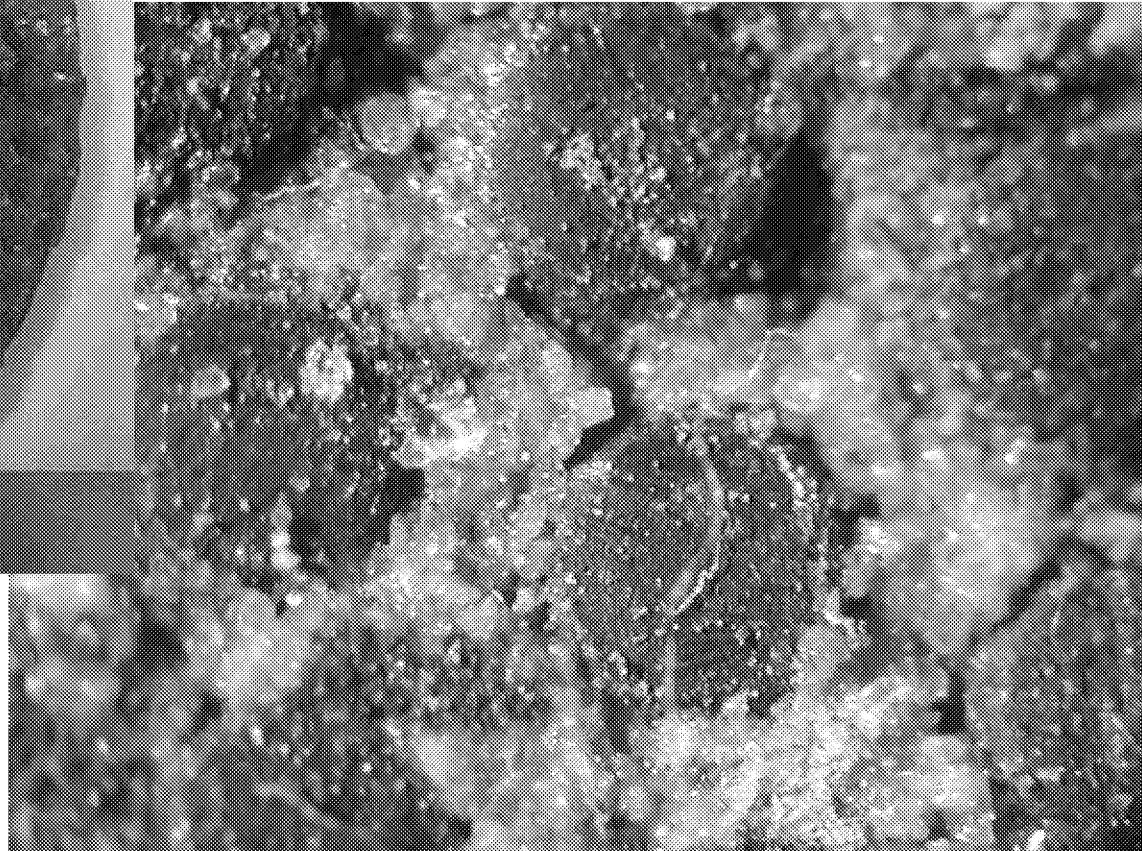
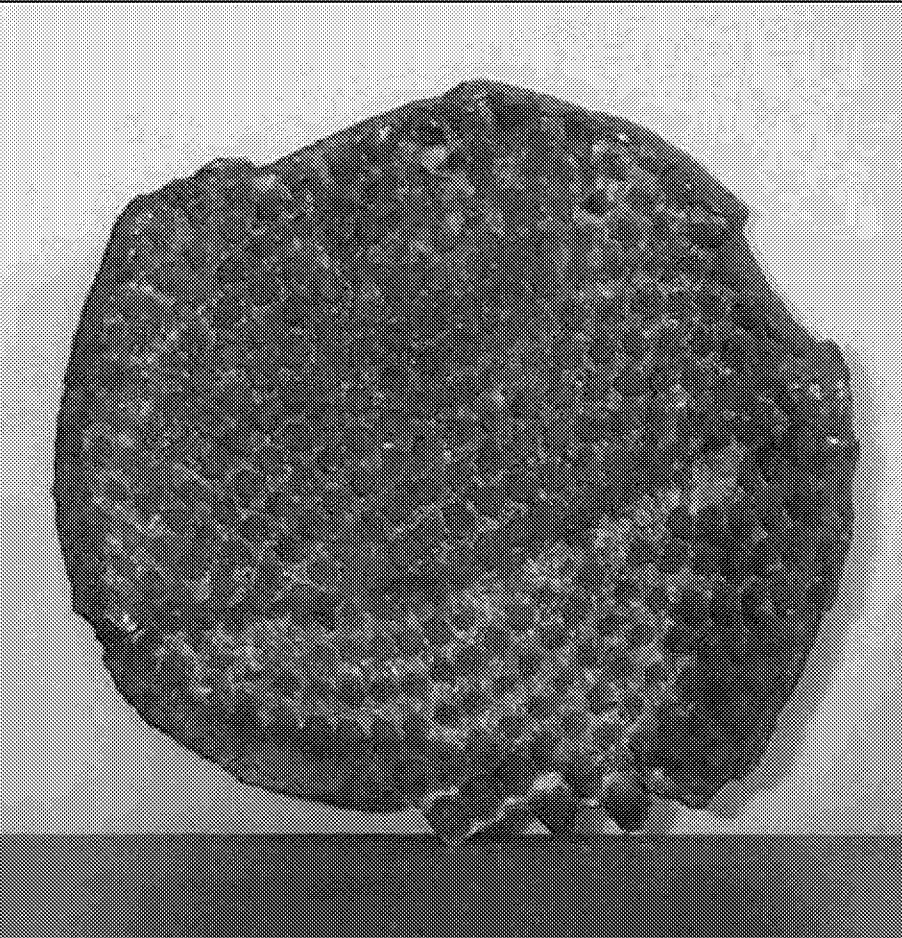


<150um

This image shows a more dispersed distribution of dark, irregularly shaped particles, which are TNT particles revealed by a color reagent. The particles are concentrated in the lower half of the frame, corresponding to the <150um sieved range.



**Figure 1. Weathered grenade fragment showing decomposition of CompB to produce loose RDX crystals.**



**UXO and some LOD are subject to BIP  
sub-munitions  
illumination rounds-perchlorate**

**Either shot or detonated using C4 (RDX)  
can create more LOD debris-  
illumination rounds VERY messy**

**Alternatives-lasers or torches  
no C4..but generally more LODs**

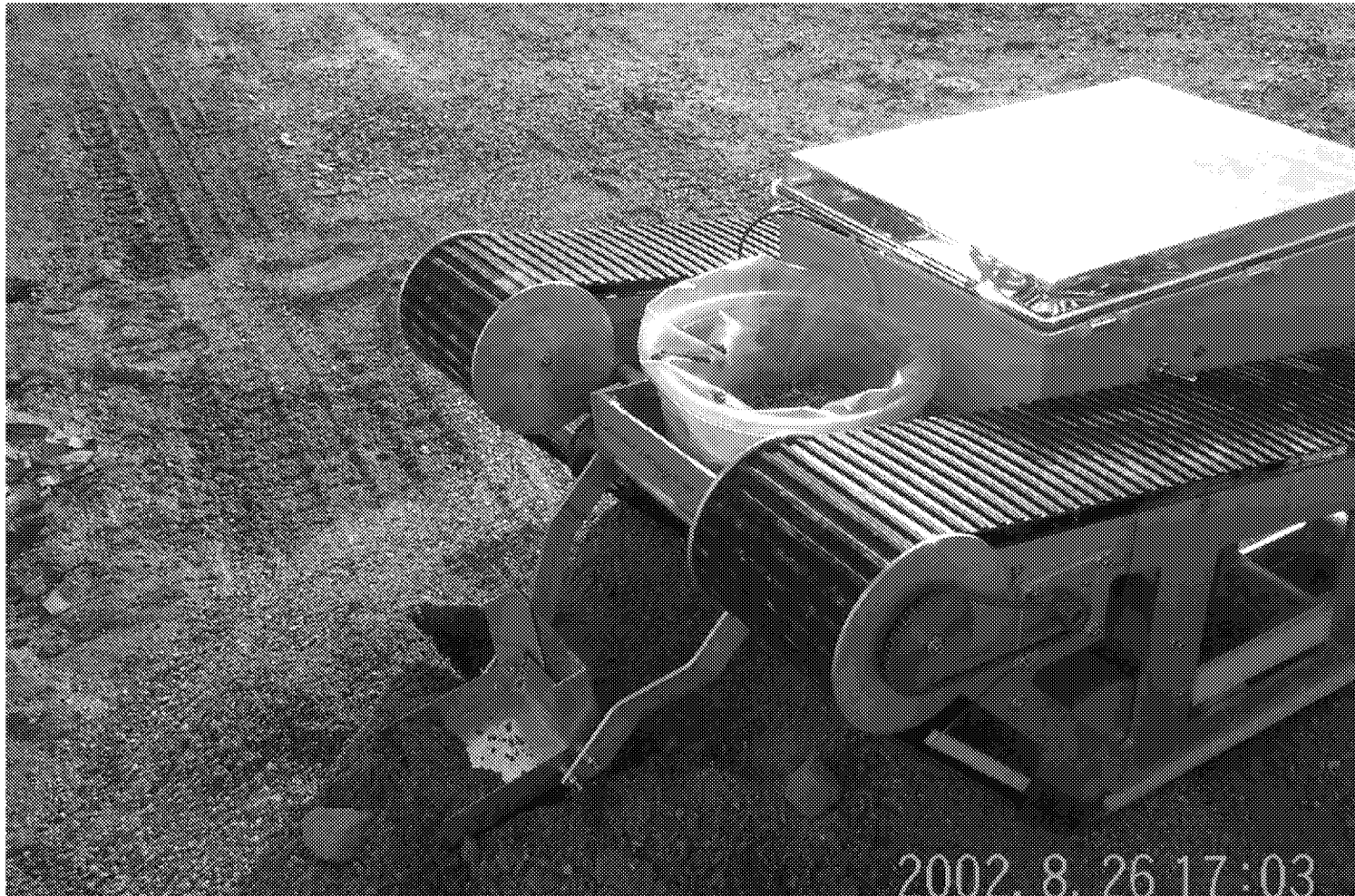
## **Range characterization-data gaps**

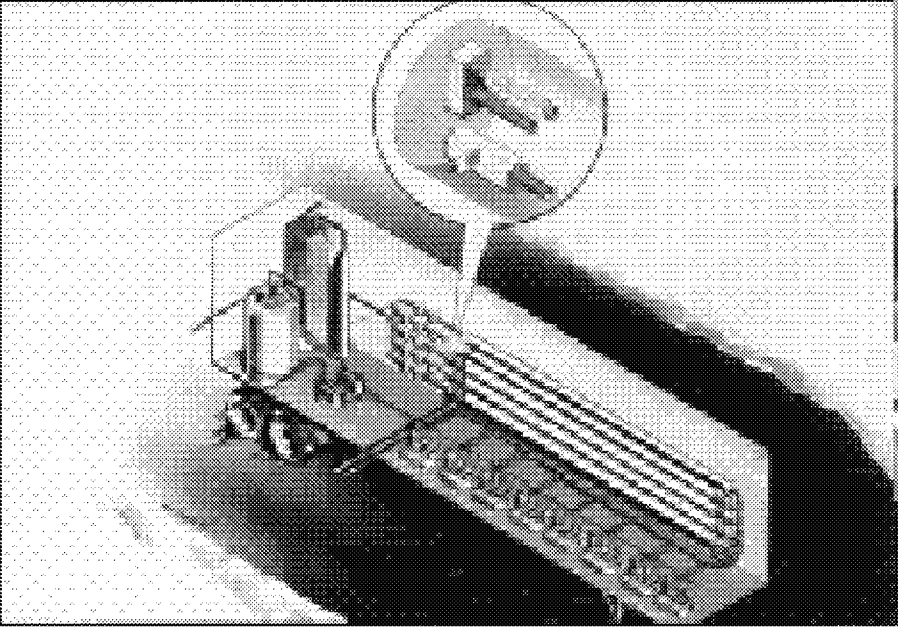
**chunk energetics NOT associated with shrapnel  
perchlorate?**

**spotting charges, flares  
illumination rounds  
rocket propellant-either unspent on  
impact or spit out on firing lanes.**



# **Range Sampling Robot-Dr. Jim Lever-CRREL Hot-Spot Robot-with IMS -ARA**





**Los Alamos-BH/SCWO**

**Actodemil®-Arctech**

**BH/humic acid. Same scale as  
LANL.**

**UXBase™-UXB**

**BH-neutralize, sewage  
Thermal-Army, Navy (CBF)  
flashing furnaces**

**INEEL-acetone  
to compost**

# Catalytic Hydrothermal Conversion

